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1952 Momentous Year

The year of our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Two is in its waning hours. Many will view its passing with but faint regret. To them it was a "bad year."

Nothing, these unthinking persons argue, turned out right in 1952. They then recite the "defeats" we suffered forgetting to balance these against the many triumphs that 1952 brought.

Their lament goes something like this: We suffered a political setback in our failure to elect Governor Adlai Stevenson as President, while Republicans perfected a workable alliance with the Dixiecrats.

The American League pennant continued to elude the Cleveland Indians. The Brooklyn Dodgers again failed to win the world's baseball championship.

Death robbed us of such outstanding leaders as C. C. Spaulding, J. Finley Wilson, Dr. Louis Wright, Moses McKissick, Robert R. Church, Judge James Watson and Canada Lee.

We saw the crowning of a white heavyweight champion, the first in 15 years.

The Methodist Church refused to go on record against the evil of segregated worship, while Pope Pius disappointingly failed to nominate a colored churchman to the College of Cardinals.

John McCray, one of our most militant editors, has been forced to serve 60 days at hard labor on a South Carolina chain-gang.

Three white paratroopers, who attacked a North Carolina matron are meted only 16 months for their crime. Mack Ingram, who got no closer than 75 feet is convicted by a N.C. jury for "assaulting" a jittery white girl.

All of these things and more are cited by those who would indict 1952. But we think they have failed to prove their case.

When placed in the right perspective and viewed objectively, 1952 will go down in the record books as a year of momentous achievement, a year of historic decision.

During the past 12 months we have enjoyed high level prosperity. More of us have held jobs at higher wages than ever before.

President Truman continued to create a climate in which it was easier to remove roadblocks to first-class citizenship

Federal and state law enforcement agencies worked together to smash Klan terrorism in North Carolina. At year's end three Klansmen were indicted in connection with bombings at Miami.

The Supreme Court gave new impetus to the legal drive for equality of opportunity in jobs, in housing, in travel, the ballot and just last week heard historic arguments that might end all school segregation.

Segregated elementary schools were abandoned in Illinois, New Jersey, Arizona, Delaware, New Mexico and Pennsylvania, while nine pupils were admitted to a white technical school in Baltimore.

Eight faculty members at the University of the South resigned in protest when colored students were denied admission to the theological seminary.

The National Council of Churches in Christ went on record as opposed to segregation, urging churches to strive for a "non-segregated church in a non segregated society."

Medical associations admitted colored professional men as members for the first time in the District of Columbia, Georgia, Florida, West Virginia and South Carolina.

Colored baseball players made their first appearance on deep south teams at Dallas, Savannah and Danville, Va.

Robert McAllester, white, defied authorities at Earlham College, Indiana Quaker school, by marrying his colored sweetheart Grace Cunningham. Louis Bellson Jr., white, rejected his father's protests to marry the singer, Pearl Bailey.

The Republican victory dislodged the overwhelming majority of southerners who had become fixtures as chairmen of important congressional committees.

New York elected its first state senator, Julius A. Archbald, while Michigan elected its first woman senator, Miss Cora Brown.

The first candidate since Reconstruction days was elected in Georgia when W. C. Ervin won election to the Augusta school board.

Georgia voters also turned down Gov. Herman Talmadge's scheme to disfranchise colored urban voters through extension of the undemocratic county unit system to general elections.

A total of 19 colored boxers and track men provided the margin of victory for America in the Olympic Games at Helsinki.

Archie Moore, long denied a chance, at year's end won the light heavyweight championship by thoroughly beating Joey Maxim.

Army integration became a reality in Europe while the armed services moved nearer to completion of the integration program in the United States.

All of these are concrete and lasting victories which must be chalked up to the credit of 1952. They more than offset the relatively unimportant setbacks.

Our only hope is that 1953 will deal with us as kindly as did its predecessor.

Recent Negro Gains

To the N. Y. Herald Tribune:

The Republican party has made fine strides toward ending segregation and bringing about integration into many of the areas of the national life of the country. President Eisenhower is making an effort to carry out his policies in his inaugural address in which he pledged to bring about an administration that would provide for the equal rights of all the citizens irrespective of race or color. Attorney General Brownell recently announced that discrimination would end in the government restaurants in Washington, and that it will be the policy of the Administration to prevent any form of discrimination against Negroes in these public dining places.

Segregation has already been abolished in the government schools, and from now on white and Negroes will be integrated in these schools. Even Fort Benning, Ga., which was set aside for the training of Negro soldiers, from now on must be integrated. The recent appointment of a Negro woman as assistant to Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby who is the Secretary of the new Department of Health, Education and Welfare indicates the attitude of the Administration in recognizing Negroes of ability and merit for representative places in the government.

I have been reliably informed that Negroes are scheduled to receive other key appointments in the administrative setup. A review of the Republican administration during the last three months will show that definite gains have been made toward the preservation of our American ideals, and to safeguard the heritage passed on to us by the founders of our republic.

CLEVELAND G. ALLEN.
New York, April 22, 1953.

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EDITORIAL

GUEST EDITORIALS—These Editorials do not necessarily reflect our opinion or policy.

Time's Article on Negroes

Undoubtedly the best article on the Negro American ever to be published by a periodical of general circulation, in our view, is Time magazine's report in its issue of May 11th.

The article is intelligently and fairly written by an author who knows his subject well and is able to range over a comprehensive scene. Contributions are made, in the way of explaining and relating various phases of Negro life, that we have not seen even in the Negro press.

Subtitled "A Decade of Progress," the report describes the great gains of the Negro during the past ten years or so in his fight for full citizenship in every field. This is as it should be, even though it emphasized the good side of the picture at the expense of the widespread evils that still remain. The evils of slum housing, segregation and poverty have been with us a long time. What is new in the situation —and points the way to the future—is the giant strides which have been made against these things. Or as Time describes it, the "major revolution in the life of the U. S. Negro."

We do not intend here to quote at length from the article, but rather urge that everyone read it for himself. It is important to read it in its entirety. For instance, the man who said he was through with "this pressure to make good for your whole people," later added: "Anyway, that's what I tell my kids. Maybe I'm just bluffing myself." A false impression can be obtained by reading only a part of the quotation.

What is the purpose behind publication of the article and what is the moral to be drawn from it? Coming after Life magazine's issue on Africa, the article points up the fact that some U. S. business leaders have become genuinely concerned with ending racial discrimination in America. This motive in turn follows from the necessity to win the colored world to America's side.

This profound purpose is altogether missed by those who try to use the Time article as a club to hit the Negro over the head. The idea that since all this progress has been made the Negro should cease his struggle against discrimination is not contained in the original article. Nor is there any disposition to abuse the militant forces who have won these gains.

Quite the contrary. Aside from an undue eulogizing of Booker T. Washington at the expense of other great leaders such as Frederick Douglass, the Time piece frankly recognizes that the tactics of active struggle for civil rights have put the tactics of "educating the white people" far in the shade.

Most important, the article closes on a note of somber warning that "complete reform" in the field of race relations is vital to the very survival of America. That is what we have been trying to say for a long time, and we rejoice that a major publication has said it to its millions of readers.